

Patent Claims:

1. Method for reducing the fuel consumption of a motor vehicle,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a driver's request for a uniform vehicle speed is determined and that once this request for a uniform vehicle speed has been identified, the modifications to the vehicle speed, which are not initiated by the driver, are at least partly adjusted by control in order to obtain the lowest possible fuel consumption for the driving engine of the vehicle.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a change in the road resistance is determined and the road resistance change is at least partly adjusted by control.
3. Method as claimed in claim 2,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that in determining the road resistance change, any change of the inclination of the roadway in the vehicle's longitudinal direction such as a road ascent or a road descent, or any change of weather conditions, in particular variable speeds of an atmospheric wind, or driving conditions such as variable angles of approach of the vehicle in the slipstream of another vehicle or object, and/or a cornering maneuver are taken into consideration.

4. Method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the driver's desire
as regards a uniform vehicle speed is detected on the
basis of the accelerator pedal movement (gas pedal
movement).
5. Method as claimed in claim 4,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that when a position of
the accelerator pedal is constantly adjusted or
maintained by the driver for a defined, predetermined
time, a vehicle speed which results from this position
of the accelerator pedal is identified as a desired
speed reflecting the driver's request.
6. Method as claimed in claim 5,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a period in the
range of 1 second (sec) to 8 sec, preferably 5 sec
approximately, is predetermined.
7. Method as claimed in claim 5 or 6,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the desired speed
reflecting the driver's request is stored.
8. Method as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the current vehicle
speed is compared with the desired speed representative
of the driver's request and, in the event of the
current vehicle speed differing from the desired speed,
the vehicle is automatically accelerated or
deceleration or slowed down, respectively, in order to
reduce the deviation.

9. Method as claimed in claim 8,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the automatic
acceleration or the automatic slowing down of the
vehicle is performed in such a fashion that minimum
possible fuel consumption, i.e. gasoline or diesel
fuel, is needed for the driving engine of the vehicle.
10. Method as claimed in claim 8 or 9,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the vehicle is
automatically accelerated or slowed down when the
deviation of the current vehicle speed from the desired
speed exceeds 0.2 km/h up to 2 km/h.